

CLAIMS

1. A drug delivery composition for delivering a drug to the colonic region comprising a starch capsule containing the drug and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating such that the drug is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.
2. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which dissolves at a pH of 5 or above.
3. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which is redox-sensitive.
4. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating comprises an azopolymer or a disulphide polymer.
5. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a material which is degraded by enzymes or bacteria present in the colon.
6. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises methylmethacrylate or a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate.
7. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises a cellulose ester.
8. A drug delivery composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the coating has a thickness in the range of

80  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

9. A drug delivery according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the drug is one which acts locally in the colon.

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10. A drug delivery composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the drug is for systemic delivery and systemic action.

11. A drug delivery composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the drug is a vaccine for delivery to the lymphoid tissue of the colon.

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12. A method of delivering a drug to the colonic region of a human or mammal comprising orally administering a drug delivery composition comprising a starch capsule containing the drug and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating such that the drug is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.

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13. A method of delivering a vaccine to the lymphoid tissue present in the colon of a human or mammal comprising orally administering a drug delivery composition comprising a starch capsule containing the vaccine and wherein the starch capsule is provided with a coating such that the vaccine is predominantly released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.

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